MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: June 17, 2020
Meeting Location: Held Remotely
Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross
Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Claire Cunningham, Mefula Fairley, Jennifer Frentress, Patricia Love, Lori Musso, Denise Porterfield

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. He announced the County Board was conducting the meeting as a webinar in light of the current Shelter-in-Place order executed by the San Mateo County Health Officer for the purpose of slowing the community spread of COVID-19 and the Governor’s March 17, 2020, Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow governing boards to conduct meetings through remote access.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the June 17, 2020, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.
3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. **June 2020 Employee of the Month Ellen Arenas, Administrative Assistant I, Curriculum and Instructional Services, Instructional Services Division**

   Board President Camacho recognized the June 2020 Employee of the Month Ellen Arenas, Administrative Assistant I, Curriculum and Instructional Services, Instructional Services Division. Board President Camacho congratulated Ms. Arenas on behalf of the Board and noted her check and commemorative clock would be mailed to her home.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **June 3, 2020, Special Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Ms. Alvaro, and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Minutes of the June 3, 2020, Special Board Meeting as presented.

   B. **June 3, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Mr. Ross, and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Minutes of the June 3, 2020, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. Receive Staffing Reports

   C. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-36 Condemning Racism and Injustice and Reaffirming Equity Through Antiracist Actions and Commitments**

   After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Consent Agenda.

6. **BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION**

   A. **Discuss/Act on San Mateo County Office of Education's 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, Including San Mateo County Office of Education's 2020-2021 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) COVID-19 Operations Written Report**

   Deputy Superintendent Porterfield presented the San Mateo County Office of Education’s Budget for 2020-2021, which included the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) COVID-19 Operations Written Report. She reminded the Board that at the last Board meeting on June 3, they were presented with the information and the required public hearing was held. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield noted there had not been any changes to the budget or the written report.
and respectfully asked the Board to approve the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, including the 2020-2021 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) COVID-19 Operations Written Report, as presented, for the San Mateo County Office of Education.

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the San Mateo County Office of Education's 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, Including San Mateo County Office of Education's 2020-2021 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) COVID-19 Operations Written Report.

B. Receive Update on Governor's Final State Budget for 2020-2021

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield began by stating the Legislature approved SB 74 despite not yet reaching a final agreement on the 2020–2021 State Budget Act with Governor Newsom. She explained while Legislative leadership and the Governor continue to maintain ongoing negotiations the fact that they have yet to come to a deal means that the final version of the 2020–2021 State Budget will likely look different than the version approved by the Legislature on June 15, 2020. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield indicated the Legislature’s budget rejects the $8.1 billion in reductions to Proposition 98 funding proposed in the Governor’s May Revision and over-appropriates the minimum guarantee by approximately $2.7 billion for 2020–2021.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said while the agreement assumes additional federal funding will materialize, there are trigger cuts built into the budget in the event the federal government does not provide additional aid by September 1. She pointed out that even if the federal government does not approve additional funding, the proposed trigger cuts would not be applied to Proposition 98 education funding. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield additionally explained cuts would not be applied to health and human services, including early childhood programs. She said the state would instead convert an additional $5.3 billion of Proposition 98 funding into a deferral, effectively preserving K–14 funding. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield described how AB 76 specifies the K–12 deferral must be paid by July 15, 2020. She explained once a deal has been made with Governor Newsom, the Legislature will likely approve a subsequent bill that reflects any compromises to SB 74, which currently provides:

- A 2.31% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)
- An average daily attendance (ADA) hold harmless for local educational agencies (LEAs)
- An amendment to Governor Newsom’s special education proposal to provide $545 million to increase AB 602 funding and $100 million for a low-incidence disabilities cost pool
- Funding for categorical programs at 2019–2020 levels, including Career Technical Education programs and the After School Program
- An elimination of the statutory growth reduction in State Preschool slots

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained the Governor now has 12 days after receiving SB 74 to take one of the following actions:

- Approve the Budget bill as presented
- Approve the Budget bill with specific line item reductions
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BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

- Veto the entire Budget bill and send it back to the Legislature

Board President Camacho asked whether it looks like the Governor and Legislature would move forward and reach a deal, or whether a veto is possible. Mr. Lempert conjectured that a deal would be reached. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield agreed.

C. Discuss/Act on Resolution No. 20-37 Authorizing a Dry Period Financing Loan to San Carlos School District

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield indicated San Carlos School District is experiencing a variety of challenging conditions for cash insolvency. The district’s funding status on December 15, 2019, was Basic Aid, but due to changing the conversion charter schools back to district schools, the district, based on the increased non-charter Average Daily Attendance (ADA), has now shifted to Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), or state-funded. She explained the district had received property tax apportionment as Basic Aid, but it was reclaimed and recalculated based on the district’s new funding status. Because there are so few LCFF districts, San Carlos School District, along with other school districts, have had property taxes and Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) dollars applied to pay the last remaining slip of the Vehicle Licensing Fee (VLF) obligation, leaving the district with zero property taxes and fully dependent on the state. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared this would have been fine under normal circumstances, as the California Department of Education (CDE) would have certified the new funding status and backfilled the district with the June apportionment all at once. She said the state is now deferring that apportionment.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated she applied for a hardship waiver, which the state will not grant, causing San Carlos School District to be cash negative. She shared she has worked on a funding solution for quite some time but has exhausted all avenues. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained code allows for SMCOE to make this short period loan and make a transfer of cash on or before June 30, 2020. She said San Carlos School District will then transfer back the cash on or before July 31, 2020, and pay negative interest, which is interest SMCOE would have earned had the funds remained in its account. She respectfully asked the Board to approve Resolution 20-37 Authorizing a Dry Period Financing Loan to San Carlos School district in the amount of $20 million.

Board President Camacho thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the background information.

Mr. Ross said his understanding is that ERAF takes property tax revenues from non-educational entities in the county, like cities, and allocates some portion to this education fund, to be used on a formula basis to fulfill the state’s obligation for LCFF. Mr. Ross also asked how the Vehicle License Fund (VLF) fits into this and why changing from a charter school to a district school causes issues.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied under Governor Schwarzenegger, there was a shifting of dollars owed from one entity to another, leading to the “triple flip,” with districts the last ones in the flip because they were going to be made whole from state apportionment. She explained the VLF
obligation did not have a sunset point, so that flip still occurs and any non-Basic Aid district becomes the funding source of that flip. As there are fewer and fewer LCFF districts, there are not enough funds to pay that obligation so they tend to deplete all property tax and ERAF dollars those districts receive. In the process, the districts become 100% dependent on the state for their apportionment. Mr. Ross asked if the VLF comes from school districts, from other government entities, or from ERAF itself. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield answered it comes from the non-Basic Aid school districts, so any excess ERAF not allocated becomes excess. The remaining LCFF districts are the funding source for VLF. Mr. Ross asked if the district has to divert money into the VLF directly. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said the transfer happens before the district actually receives property taxes.

Mr. Ross asked what happens when charter schools turn into district schools. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded that districts with charter schools are responsible to share their property taxes, but they don’t have to share them in an equal amount per ADA; they only have to share to a capped amount. When San Carlos School District had only one district school, with all the remaining schools being conversion charter schools, they had a lot more property taxes. The ADA increases in the formula as the number of district schools increases. San Carlos has now transitioned all its charters into district schools except for the independent charter school.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained because of the timing of the conversion and the documentation the controller used when the taxes were determined, San Carlos School District initially qualified as Basic Aid. By the time all documentation caught up at CDE, there were fewer charter schools.

Mr. Ross asked whether the allocation of property taxes from the County Controller’s office gets pulled back, and districts wait for the state to manage the allocation. He also noted this money comes from local sources, including local funding and ERAF, but the District has to wait for the state to manage the money, which is why San Carlos School District has a hole. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this was correct, adding other districts were also impacted by the recalculation, which changed the ERAF calculation.

Mr. Ross said that altering one calculation has a ripple effect on the ERAF calculation, and district ERAFs must be recalculated. He stated his understanding is that the state’s interest is for ERAF to do more work, and the more that can be paid for by local ERAF calculations, the more the county is taking care of schools. If ERAF is calculated at a lower amount because charter schools are omitted, more ERAF goes back to the cities and the county itself. This, however, causes the state to have to do more backfill.

Mr. Ross summarized that these mechanics are causing a budget shortfall for San Carlos School District and other districts. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield agreed.

Ms. Alvaro commented on the Board memo describing how “the State has indicated there will not be a waiver process for districts with hardship.” She stated luckily SMCOE has money to loan to districts, but if didn’t, districts would be in a tough spot. Ms. Alvaro commented districts end up paying interest on money they should have received from the state in the first place.
Ms. Alvaro’s asked why the VLF is not paying for itself, because when she registers her car, she pays a fee. Why does the state need to backfill that fee? Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied she would need to research to what entity that money goes and explained it is a state obligation all-around. She said if there is not enough funding from the LCFF districts to pay the obligation, the state will have to figure out how to handle that gap.

Ms. Alvaro shared feeling this process is entirely unfair. She also said while she is glad SMCOE has the ability to help districts, she feels it is wrong to charge the districts interest on money they should have received in the first place.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained negative interest is much less than if a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) had been issued because the cost of issuance would have been roughly $100,000. Ms. Alvaro said she understood that negative interest is much less and reiterated luckily SMCOE can help. She made an analogy between this situation someone needing to borrow money because their employer paid them too late, which, she said, is the employer’s problem, not the individual’s problem.

Mr. Hsiao asked if there are any foreseeable contingencies in which SMCOE may need the cash it is lending. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded not for this year, as SMCOE will still be cash solvent. She added SMCOE will begin developing a pool for districts so they can share the cost of issuance next time, because with all the deferrals and some recent information about property tax flow, SMCOE cannot be the source next year. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield indicated this type of loan will be provided this year only and SMCOE is working with interested Chief Business Officials (CBOs) to develop other methodologies. She shared SMCOE is the first county to get into this situation.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained if a district is ultimately cash negative, they are considered insolvent and the process of state-takeover begins. She added these districts are not insolvent. Mr. Hsiao clarified for this year, the Board is being asked to approve the use of SMCOE cash to support districts, but this level of support would not be available for next year, and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield is working with other CBOs to establish a pool. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this was accurate.

Mr. Lempert asked if Deputy Superintendent Porterfield was aware of a city or special district in the county ever needing a loan, as he could not think of an example over the last 30 years. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield reported she was not, but she knows a lot of them take out TRANS or Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs). Mr. Lempert asked if a city or special district in the county has ever been in the position to go insolvent and have the state take over. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield related she recently read that the city of Stockton went bankrupt. She also shared districts cannot file for bankruptcy.

Mr. Lempert said the point he is getting at is that cities and counties are much better set up for financial stability compared to school districts, at least in San Mateo County. He added that despite a great deal of analysis regarding proposed cuts, cities have not been asked to hold back on new projects. Mr. Lempert stated he sees schools under duress and perhaps a conversation can occur in
San Mateo County about being in this together and maybe the cities and the county can bring change in the state by putting children’s needs first.

Mr. Hsiao described how interest rates are low and asked about the real cost burden to districts borrowing cash. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded it is more about going out for public offering and the costs of having the borrowing rated and writing up the lending documents. Mr. Hsiao confirmed there is no revolving loan fund that exists for school districts. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this as accurate.

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Resolution No. 20-37 Authorizing a Dry Period Financing Loan to San Carlos School District.

D. Discuss/Act on Resolution No. 20-38 Authorizing a Dry Period Financing Loan for San Mateo County School Districts

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared due to a disagreement between the Department of Finance and the County Controller regarding the interpretation of codes indicating who is eligible for ERAF, districts entitled to ERAF dollars are experiencing a funding gap in their 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 apportionments. She explained neither agency is willing to provide the funds while the disagreement exists because the interpretation shows the excess ERAF belongs to other taxing entities even though the state believes these districts are entitled to the ERAF.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said the districts indicated in the current resolution expect a negative cash balance on June 30, 2020, as a result of not having these funds paid to them. She explained the code allows for SMCOE to make this short period loan and transfer of cash on or before June 30, 2020. The districts will transfer back the funds on or before July 31, 2020, and pay negative interest, the interest SMCOE would have earned had the funds been in its account. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield respectfully asked the Board to approve Resolution No. 20-38 Authorizing a Dry Period Financing Loan for San Mateo County School Districts in the amount of:

- Belmont-Redwood Shores School District - $5,131,578
- Cabrillo Unified School District - $14,000,000
- Millbrae Elementary School District - $7,000,000
- Pacifica School District - $2,000,000

Mr. Ross related he did not understand how the calculation disagreement led to ERAF dollars being pulled back from the districts and asked if this referred to school districts or charter schools. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied it refers to both. She described the conversation started about two years ago when a county asked the question “How are you calculating your ERAF obligation for school districts?” As people researched the code and conversations ensued among the controllers, the revenue taxation code was reinterpreted because it did not clearly indicate charter schools as eligible for ERAF.
Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated the original recalculation interpretation took eligibility away from any districts with charter schools. She said there are three years recalculated every time this goes through, so 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 became due for recalculation or resubmission on April 15. At that point, instead of following the historical practice of including all ADA for the charter school, the County Controller concluded the calculation should be changed to be eligible for taxes in lieu. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained that would be fine, but the Department of Finance instructed the County Controllers not to resubmit 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 as they would not be considered. She said the San Mateo County’s Controller resubmitted for those two years because they believed if districts or charter schools are not eligible, the excess ERAF belongs to the other taxing entities. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield indicated when one side says to reduce the ERAF obligation after a certification and the state won’t look at the paperwork to recertify, it results in a funding gap for these districts.

Mr. Ross asked if the Controller has agreed that ERAF does need to go to the charter schools, but has determined that the calculation for the rest of the school districts should be less? Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied, “no,” and explained under revenue limits, charter school ADA was fully included so when they calculated the ERAF need, the full ADA and funding amount for a charter school was included. She also stated that when the transition to LCFF occurred, the practice was continued in the county until this question came up.

Mr. Ross asked if the issue is about whether the money goes to charter schools or through the districts? He noted that districts would ultimately lose money in this process. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this was accurate and cited the example of $100 being recalculated to only $90 or $80.

Mr. Ross commented that in this format ERAF funds would go back to San Mateo County, the city of Pacifica, the city of Menlo Park, and the town of Atherton to completely defund five districts and have them be out of money so those cities can fund their police departments and everything else they are doing. He said the apparent is that SMCOE has to give these districts a loan. Mr. Ross also noted if SMCOE was not there to help, the state would take the districts over.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied that different agencies can re-evaluate the laws and the outcome may drive a change in practice and in this case, that has occurred. She said for 2019-2020 the same calculation is happening; however, the State certified it the way they intend it to work, ensuring the districts would be backfilled. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield suggested both agencies are party to this moment. Mr. Ross asked if the other party was the State Controller. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield answered that the funds come essentially come from the State Controller, but the Department of Finance gave the direction not to resubmit because they don’t want to recalculate the whole state. However, the County Controller believes these funds should go back to the other entities.

Mr. Ross commented that SMCOE is now the bank for the city of San Mateo, Pacifica, and Menlo Park, and it doesn’t seem right that the school districts should be paying the interest.
BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board President Camacho suggested he may have potential next steps for recovery in his Board Member Comments.

Ms. Alvaro commented on Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) which has a $14 million shortfall and never has had a charter school, which she doesn’t understand, and asked for clarification. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded every LCFF, or state-funded, district in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 had their ERAF apportionment recalculated, and since CUSD was LCFF it was impacted. Every district got a different allocation based on proportionate need, so when the charter school portion was recalculated, it impacted everyone in the pool. She explained since these funds do not belong to the district, any district that flipped into Basic Aid in 2019-2020 is having their 2019-2020 property taxes taken to pay back this obligation. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated that is how CUSD is being hit, as the cash they need for this year is being taken. Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the response, describing the situation as confusing.

Ms. Alvaro commented on how CUSD has flip-flopped from Basic Aid to LCFF many times, and could again, and asked whether there is stasis at some point. Ms. Alvaro stated it is hard to budget when a district doesn’t know if they are Basic Aid or LCFF and are then told they are short $14 million because they flip-flopped several times. She asked if there is a longer window in which districts can stay one status and the craziness can stop.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded she and the Assistant County Controller recently had a conversation about how to establish status, not necessarily on past certification, but on estimates on where the districts are going. She said status was historically based on previous certification, and depending on how a district has estimated ADA, that can change status, with 100 additional students making a district LCFF, and without those students the district remains Basic Aid.

Mr. Cannon stated he was interested in the background information about the problems and uncertainty caused for districts and shared he feels for those involved. He described how SMCOE will be loaning between $45 and $50 million and will get the money back, which Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed was accurate. She added that the districts are harmed because they need to pay back interest. Mr. Cannon asked if SMCOE will be harmed in any way. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed SMCOE would not be harmed, but the situation is not sustainable year over year.

Mr. Lempert asked for the sake of total due diligence, is there a worst case scenario in which the state approaches a near-bankruptcy situation and doesn’t pay the districts and then SMCOE is on the hook for the money? For example, if COVID-19 gets worse and there are no bailouts for states, there are massive fires, or hospitals are overrun, and school budgets get slashed by 30%. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded this was not a possibility, as SMCOE has access to the district books and could journal the money back. She stated SMCOE does not want to mask the problem for very long, and the only reason to loan they money is so districts are cash solvent on that day. Mr. Lempert reiterated that regardless of the scenario, SMCOE would get the loaned money back. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield assured him SMCOE would take its money back.
After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Resolution No. 20-38 Authorizing a Dry Period Financing Loan for San Mateo County School Districts.

7. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Update on SMCOE Computer Science Strategic Implementation Plan
B. Receive Update on CSforAll Computer Science Commitment

Dr. Thomforde reviewed the Computer Science (CS) timeline and the principles of the CS Strategic Implementation Plan:

- P1. Every student and every teacher is capable of learning computer science.
- P2. Every student in California should have equitable access to high-quality computer science curriculum and instruction aligned to the CS Standards.
- P3. Every student should have continuous opportunities and multiple entry points to engage in computer science education, including articulated pathways toward college, careers, and community engagement.

Dr. Thomforde recognized the members of the SMCOE CS Steering Committee, who met over the course of 8 separate meetings, and included teachers of various levels, researchers, content providers, industry representatives, and SMCOE staff:

- Dr. Quinn Burke, Senior Research Scientist, Digital Promise
- Ann Greyson, CS & Engineering Department Chair, Castilleja School
- Mariana Hernandez, 8th grade Math and Computer Science teacher, Redwood City School District
- Melissa Hero, Biology Teacher, Technology Coordinator, SUHSD
- Dr. Aleata Hubbard Cheuoua, Senior Research Associate, WestEd
- Trevor Leach, Support Teacher, Court & Community Schools, SMCOE
- Christy Novack, Access, Equity, and Innovation Specialist, Pacifica School District
- Bradley Ostrander, Coordinator, School Climate, SMCOE
- Dr. Mark L. Miller, Director, Learningtech.org; adjunct faculty, Northeastern University, San Francisco
- Carl Shan, former High School CS Teacher, Nueva; current Senior Data Scientist, LinkedIn

Dr. Thomforde shared an overview of the CS Strategic Implementation Plan, with the overall goal of providing Equitable and Sustainable CS Implementation, supported through three main avenues, further broken down in the following ways:

1) Create a CS Culture
2) Develop Capacity
3) Support Long-Term Success
Dr. Thomforde presented the finalized Strategic Implementation Plan, explaining it could be viewed as a Google doc or online via the website https://sites.google.com/smcoe.org/csinsmc/resources/cs-action-plan. She highlighted the link providing various data points, although not yet complete, to use as a public measure of accountability against the Strategic Implementation Plan. Dr. Thomforde outlined the action items, divided into 1) SMCOE’s plans and responsibilities and 2) actions items SMCOE will do to support districts when they are ready, and further broken down into subtasks for each.

Dr. Thomforde next discussed the CSforAll Commitments, the main way the CS education community interacts as a gatekeeper to the CSforAll Consortium. She presented the 2019 CSforAll Commitment and 2020 CSforAll Commitment draft as follows:

- **SMCOE’s 2019 CSforAll commitment:**
  SMCOE commitment: Convene Computer Science Steering Committee who will write a Strategic Implementation Plan and provide leadership in the implementation of the California CS Standards equitably across our 23 school districts.

- **SMCOE’s 2020 CSforAll commitment (draft):**
  SMCOE commitment: Adopt the Strategic Implementation Plan and create a county-wide implementation toolkit to guide Computer Science Equity across our 23 school districts.

Lastly, Dr. Thomforde outlined upcoming summer CS professional development opportunities:

- Summer of CS @SCOE June 18
- Inclusive STEM + CS Summit June 19-20
- Computer Science Crash Course @KCI June 22-26
- CSTA Virtual Conference July 13-14
- IntroLogic @Stanford July 20-24

Dr. Thomforde expressed gratitude for a wonderful two years at SMCOE, sharing she would miss everyone.

Board President Camacho thanked Dr. Thomforde for the presentation.

Mr. Hsiao shared that Dr. Thomforde would be missed, and he was sorry he was only able to attend 1-2 of her professional learning sessions. He stated he was impressed with the vibrant networks she built and the amazing books groups she led. He noted the level of excitement among those involved in the CS Steering Committee, the level of momentum to drive the work forward, and asked where she has the most concerns regarding successful implementation. Dr. Thomforde replied among those working in the CS ecosystem right now, there is a huge amount of energy but a huge amount of overwhelm, as the problem is so much bigger than teaching a few CS classes. She said it’s really about creating a system of equity allowing all students to be consumers and creators of technology.

She also stated the pandemic has really thrown a wrench in their work, with the Educator Workforce investment grant reappropriated by the Finance Committee and the defunding of a statewide CS Coordinator position. Dr. Thomforde described how the pandemic has highlighted the digital divide, and getting devices and WIFI in the hands of students is only the first step. Dr.
Thomforde indicated that CS funding has gone elsewhere, which is appropriate at this time, but they are trying to rally and use this “furlough” time wisely to build structures, educate themselves, and create bodies of work and lists of resources. She assured they are not taking this time off and instead are doubling down.

Mr. Hsiao surmised the silver lining with COVID-19 is that more students are getting devices and hotspots, which is not yet 100% by any means, particularly among low-income families. He expressed fears that CS teachers would be repurposed to train on distance learning. Dr. Thomforde reported that is occurring but a lot of teachers are used to advocating for themselves, and they have support structures such as CISC, CSTA, and the CSforCA Consortium who have dedicated specific workgroups to support these teachers to not only elevate distance learning but also use as an avenue to get CS exposed to more people. Mr. Hsiao thanked Dr. Thomforde for all she has done and described her as a dynamo who built a strong foundation in the county.

Mr. Ross shared he is delighted with what Dr. Thomforde set in motion and how she relentlessly forged a path with the support of SMCOE and Superintendent Magee to do exactly what she said she was going to do the previous year. He described the CS Strategic Plan as an ambitious, detailed plan and congratulated and thanked all who worked on the plan. Mr. Ross described her proposal for the next year’s commitment as ambitious because the implementation plan is a big statement about achieving equity and access to CS and computational thinking for everyone in the county. He said the Board is committed to supporting the Superintendent and SMCOE in making the plan a reality through budgeting, hiring, and prioritization of communication. He thanked and congratulated Dr. Thomforde, assured her she would do great things, and shared SMCOE was lucky to have had her. He described her as one of the few people in the world with a foot in education and CS, a rare thing, which he hopes will not always be a rare thing.

Superintendent Magee added that the CSforAll Commitment would be brought back to the next meeting for action.

Board President Camacho echoed his colleagues’ comments. He said shared Dr. Thomforde brought tremendous talent and leadership to SMCOE, and he thanked her for her time and efforts. He stated he looks forward to the next steps for CS in the county, which is so needed and important.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for 2018-2021

Associate Superintendent Musso stated she was pleased to announce the collective bargaining agreement for 2018-2021 with SMCEA has been settled. She referred to the Board packet for the required AB 1200 public disclosure of the agreement.

Board President Camacho thanked Associate Superintendent Musso for her work.


OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

B. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee acknowledged the incredible expertise of Deputy Superintendent Porterfield working with the County Controller’s office, the CDE, the Department of Finance, and her colleagues across the state in other county offices to navigate the ERAF conversation and uncover a solution. Superintendent Magee indicated Deputy Superintendent Porterfield kept her eye on a solution that best served the districts in their financial needs and acknowledged the time, effort, energy, and grit it took to get to this point, despite the anxiety-ridden process to come up with dry period funding process. She shared appreciation for the Board’s understanding and engagement in supporting local school districts amid an insane funding model for California’s schools.

Superintendent Magee thanked Dr. Thomforde for her amazing work and leadership at SMCOE, and shared sadness that her term was ending.

Superintendent Magee thanked Associate Superintendent Musso for the successful completion of negotiations with SMCEA, and acknowledged that this final settlement completed all bargaining agreements for this term.

Superintendent Magee discussed kicking off the partnership with the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) on an innovative professional development for teachers across the county and the region around distance learning. She described how SMCOE leaders forged this partnership with SMCCCD and within a few weeks put together an amazing opportunity for teachers as they head into another year of hybrid and distance learning education. Superintendent Magee said more than 20 SMCOE coordinators and executive leaders are participating in the project over the next six weeks. Superintendent Magee summarized it is a great learning opportunity for SMCOE to work with SMCCCD as a partner, utilizing new platforms and working across teams.

Superintendent Magee also noted that staff continue to process, connect, and reflect on the anti-racist energy in which SMCOE is immersed. She shared SMCOE staff have had the chance to learn and reflect together in three webinar facilitations, led by Senior Administrator Fairley and contributed to by Coordinator Veal, Project Specialist Burnett, Project Specialist Rodriguez, and Director McGrath. Superintendent Magee said these webinars had been well-attended, provided meaningful engagement and is leading to SMCOE’s next steps in implementing an anti-racist paradigm.

Superintendent Magee shared return-to-school planning continues, and earlier in the day Dr. Morrow, San Mateo County’s Health Officer, released a new order updating the Shelter-in-Place. She said she believes the updated order releases the county from Shelter-in-Place, putting the onus on all residents in San Mateo County to follow the four pillars which frame the Pandemic Recovery Framework for schools. She said the Court and Community Programs’ extended school year (ESY) program is midway through its second week of summer school and all is going well, with students participating, engaging, and learning. Superintendent Magee added that this week the E-22 Special Education program began delivering and supporting ESY curriculum to students and families as best they could through distance learning, which is not ideal. She stated staff are on site at Palos Verdes and El Portal in providing distance instruction and working to build practices and routines on the campus to prepare for the return of students in the new year.
Superintendent Magee reported the E-22 staff planned a drive-through graduation for graduates. She discussed how staff had been working hard to put together details that would allow attendees to participate through a live-stream feed. Superintendent Magee thanked the staff for honoring students graduating from their 12th grade year of high school and students completing their transition program. She sent best wishes to the graduates and their families on behalf of SMCOE.

Superintendent Magee wished happy birthday to the Board members with June birthdays - Mr. Lempert, Mr. Cannon, and Mr. Camacho. She shared that Mr. Camacho’s birthday is the same day as Juneteenth, and noted that SMCOE would be holding a pop-up event on the history of the date and what it means in African American community.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on the San Mateo County Board of Education's Candidate Policy Form, Including Resolution No. 20-39 Calling for an Election to be Held on November 3, 2020, for the Election of Four Members of the Governing Board

B. Discuss/Act on the San Mateo County Board of Education's Candidate Policy Form Service Agreement

Superintendent Magee stated this is an election year for four members of the SMCOE Governing Board who are up for reelection in the November 4, 2020, General Election – Mr. Cannon, Mr. Lempert, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Hsiao. She explained part of the process in San Mateo County is a required resolution specifying the date, purpose, and authority for ordering the election. Superintendent Magee noted the resolution must be approved by the Board with Ms. Perna and Administrator Love listed as the official contacts for the elections office. She explained that SMCOE is required to submit a Candidate Policy Form, which clarifies that four Board members will be elected, the election will be conducted at-large, candidate statements will be limited to 200 words, candidates will cover that cost, and tie-votes will be decided by lot.

Board President Camacho questioned whether “at-large” is the correct “Election Type” for the San Mateo County Board of Education. He commented “by district” seems to be a better option with the election “by the registered voters of the entire school district.” Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham explained that in the past, the Board has discussed the transition to by-trustee area elections, and had established the plan to wait for Census data in order to use the most updated information. She said Board President Camacho was correct that trustees must reside in the area they seek to represent, and they are elected by all of the voters. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham added the legal authority for County Board elections only discusses at-large elections, so she is hesitant to check another box, but she sees Board President Camacho’s point. She suggested she would contact the Elections Office to ensure which box is the correct one to check, given the unique circumstances of the County Board of Education, but approval was still requested at this time because the form needs to be submitted given the timelines for the election. Board President Camacho thanked Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham and agreed it would be wise to keep to the timeline. Superintendent Magee summarized that Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham would obtain clarification from the Elections Office regarding the correct way to mark the form.
After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved San Mateo County Board of Education’s Candidate Policy Form.

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Resolution No. 20-39 Calling for an Election to be Held on November 3, 2020, for the Election of Four Members of the Governing Board.

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the San Mateo County Board of Education's Candidate Policy Form Service Agreement.

C. Board Member Comments

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard shared the meeting contained a lot of information to process and absorb, and she is anxious to hear the comments from other Board members. She commended and thanked Superintendent Magee and all of the exemplary SMCOE staff for the remarkable work being done to complete tasks and keep the County Office of Education centered, stating she felt proud and lucky. Ms. Gerard shared she and Mr. Ross attended a meeting earlier in the day with the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Conference Committee, and as of today they are still trying to finalize speakers and programs. She described attempts to get State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and California State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond to participate, and that Mr. Ross is working to get a representative from Zoom to attend. Ms. Gerard shared hopes to open conference registration on July 14 and noted information would be distributed soon.

Ms. Gerard wished happy birthday to the Board members with June birthdays. Lastly, she discussed the difficulty California School Boards Association (CSBA) and CCBE have sending emails to SMCOE due to security system blocks. Ms. Gerard assured the Board that a questionnaire had been sent out to all County Board members in California, and she was also told that Board members should check their junk mail. Ms. Alvaro commented that some Board members received the questionnaire while others did not.

Mr. Cannon
Mr. Cannon commented on the fantastic work being done by Superintendent Magee and stated the more he finds out about Deputy Superintendent Porterfield’s work, the more in awe he is. He thanked her for her work. Mr. Cannon complimented and shared appreciation for Dr. Thomforde on her great work and enthusiasm for her CS work. He addressed Associate Superintendent Musso and expressed his appreciation for anyone who works on negotiations, especially those who do such a wonderful job as she has done. Mr. Cannon congratulated her on her persistence to complete all negotiations. He expressed the hardest part of her job for him would be maintaining patience and fortitude while moving forward meeting after meeting, year after year, and he thanked her for doing her job so well.
Mr. Cannon referred back to the powerful resolution on education for race relations and discrimination, and shared reading a column earlier in the week by David Axelrod in which Dr. Axelrod described believing he understood the issue of prejudice and what Black people and other minority groups go through, but he didn’t. Mr. Cannon agreed with Mr. Axelrod, indicating what has gone on in the last month or so has been a profound education for him. He also described his education on the Me-Too movement, describing how people attended the march in Washington D.C. and how it brought out the depth of the struggle for women. Mr. Cannon described how both issues have been hard lessons but helpful, and he expressed feeling sad that so many people have experienced so much pain. He said these are powerful issues, and he hopes we can move forward.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao remarked that he too feels pain and anguish that so many people have suffered. He described the work of his start-up work and the county-wide initiative he is pushing to close the opportunity gap for out-of-school time when fall reopens. Mr. Hsiao gave a big shout-out to Superintendent Magee and other SMCOE staff who participated in the webinar he helped organize with THRIVE and the Child Care Coordinating Council (4C’s), which took place the previous Friday. He explained that Superintendent Magee did an excellent job sharing out key learnings that both childcare and out-of-school time providers need to consider opening for summer and fall. Mr. Hsiao said THRIVE reported a huge flood of follow-up questions, and this issue is not going away. He said he organized a follow-up round table event, where 20 leaders from across the county representing businesses, non-profits, THRIVE, school districts, childcare providers, churches, and philanthropies will participate to tackle the issue. Mr. Hsiao summarized there is no one-size-fits-all solution. He shared appreciation for everyone’s support, including CSBA, and he would have more to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert spoke of the education crisis and feeling there is nothing under more strain right now than education and the early childhood system. He discussed SMCOE being under the strain of everyday work, along with supporting districts and programs, and doing a remarkable, phenomenal job. Mr. Lempert indicated there should be cheers for the heroes at SMCOE every day. He discussed representing the county in three different capacities - in the legislature, the County Board of Supervisors, and the County Office of Education, and for years he hasn’t understood why education is not as well funded as other government services. Mr. Lempert indicated he is always told that’s the way it is and nothing can be done, and he feels some county services absolutely benefit children and need substantially more funding.

Mr. Lempert shared an analysis in Santa Clara County showing that only 2% of the budget goes directly to children, and he said he does not know that percentage for San Mateo County. Mr. Lempert recalled being on the Board of Supervisors in San Mateo County and putting money into schools. He admitted that counties and cities are facing difficulties, but not as much compared to schools, adding if there is ever a time for change through these crises and civil unrest, which he hopes will be positive and change the world, this is the time to have serious conversations with cities and counties. Mr. Lempert spoke of the percentages of city budgets going towards the police force, and shared that California ranks second in law enforcement but so low in education. He spoke of advocacy being a goal of SMCOE and the County Board of Education, and this being the time to
have a careful and gentle, but firm, conversation with government colleagues in the county. He hopes to lead the way in saying this makes no sense, and the schools and early childhood need to be better funded. Mr. Lempert said he did not know of city or county employees in San Mateo County buying their own supplies, as happens with teachers. He reiterated this is the time to push the conversation about making children the priority.

Mr. Cannon asked if this topic could be discussed at the next meeting. Superintendent Magee agreed it could be. Mr. Cannon shared he did not want to end the conversation without following up, and he really wanted to spend some time on it.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro thanked Mr. Lempert for his comments. She referred to Jackie Speiers’s comments from a few years ago that the reason children are not the priority is because they can’t vote, which she agrees with. Ms. Alvaro thanked Mr. Hsiao for his work organizing the THRIVE webinar, which she found interesting. She reported some of the daycare providers she had invited from the coastside had attended. Ms. Alvaro congratulated Associate Superintendent Musso for completing the negotiations. She thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for her continual patience and for doing her best to explain what is inexplicable. Ms. Alvaro described her frustration as directed at the situation, not at Deputy Superintendent Porterfield.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Dr. Thomforde for all the work she has done and expressed she will be missed. Ms. Alvaro discussed the stunning development that the shelter-in-place has been rescinded and everyone must now take on their individual responsibilities. She described in her town there are large hordes of people on the beaches without masks and not social distancing, while numbers and hospitalizations have been increasing since Memorial Day. Ms. Alvaro asked how this might affect the return-to-school scenario, as we are still acting under the initial shelter-in-place concept using the four pillars. She expressed hopes that it is conveyed by the health department that although the shelter order may be lifted, the plan for schools to be extremely careful has not been lifted, because she does not want a battle between school personnel and administrators versus the public regarding what is fair. Ms. Alvaro asked Superintendent Magee in her continued meetings to make it clear that we still need the back-up of the health department to determine the schools are not arbitrarily imposing prohibitions on children and families.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross indicated the comments from his fellow Board members have been amazing and he appreciates all of them. He reiterated thanks to Associate Superintendent Musso for her achievements, and to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for her patience through his questions. Mr. Ross described Dr. Thomforde’s report as gratifying.

Mr. Ross referred to his excitement about ERAF and said there was a meeting earlier in the day with the Department of Finance in the Governor’s Office, asking Superintendent Magee to provide context for how that meeting came together. Superintendent Magee explained how they had been working on the excess property tax lobbying effort before COVID-19 on behalf of the 11 County Offices of Education whose dollars are being swept to the trial courts. She described an initial meeting between the 11 County Superintendents and the Department of Finance, with the idea of having a follow-up
meeting. Capital Advisors helped shepherd that effort, and despite all going on in Sacramento with the budget, earlier in the day had a half-hour meeting with Jessica Holmes, the Assistant Deputy Director of the Department of Finance under Governor Newsom, and her staff. Superintendent Magee attended along with Mr. Ross, and Superintendent Dewan and Trustee Kamei from Santa Clara County, to represent all County Superintendents. She shared they are building a relationship with the team newly in place to explore the roots and history of the issue, and track where the money goes. Superintendent Magee described the conversation as good, with a productive debriefing, and there is a plan to schedule follow-up meetings.

Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for being a leader in making the meeting happen with Capital Advisors. He shared how attendees made the case for why property dollars raised explicitly for education and to support County Offices of Education should not be sent to Sacramento to backfill general fund obligations to the state-wide trial court system. Mr. Ross explained this helps sharpen the conversation, because it is clear there is a $150 million hole in SMCOE’s budget that the State is using to fund an obligation to the trial court system. He added that education dollars should stay in education and politically, if one cares about education, one cannot accept a system where tax dollars raised for education are diverted for other purposes.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho thanked SMCOE staff for all the tremendous work being done, including Deputy Superintendent Littrell, the CS team, and Associate Superintendent Musso. He discussed Recovery Phase 2 long-term planning for the county and work being done by his colleagues on other district and city councils, intending to infuse each committee with an equity lens. Board President Camacho reported Trustee Salahuddin from the Jefferson Union High School District Board is on the overarching Recovery Coordination Council (RCC) with Superintendent Magee, so there are two school representatives on that committee. He said under that level there is a Public Information and Outreach Group as well as an Equity Recovery Group, on which he is serving. Additionally, there are five subcommittees, with representation from other district Board representatives.

Board President Camacho suggested his Board colleagues reach out to and engage with participating members so they can bring those ideas, particularly on Education and Childcare Committee. He said Trustee Watkins and Trustee Corzo from the San Mateo-Foster City School District, and Trustee Wilson from the Ravenswood School District, are serving on that committee. Board President Camacho emphasized the importance of this work because it is not just a health emergency, it is a social emergency as well.

Board President Camacho noted there are changes for the leadership of San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA), including Trustee Salahuddin terming out as President and transitioning to the Immediate Past-President role, Trustee Daina Lujan from the South San Francisco Unified School District taking over as President of the organization, and Trustee Clayton Koo from the Jefferson Elementary School District taking over as Vice-President.
10. **CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**
   (GOVT. CODE §54956.8): 1800 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA

   **A. Persons Wishing to Address the Board on Closed Session Agenda Items**

   There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

   **B. Convene to Closed Session**

   The Board convened to Closed Session at 6:27 p.m.

   **C. Discuss/Act on Property: 1800 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA; Agency negotiator: Nancy Magee, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, and Denise Porterfield, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division; Negotiating parties: Elizabeth McManus, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, San Mateo Union High School District; Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment**

   **D. Reconvene to Open Session and Report on any Action Taken in Closed Session**

   The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:57 p.m. The Board took action to have direction given to staff.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

   There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on July 15, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

   Nancy Magee, Secretary
   jlp